



▶ COMMUNITY SPONSORS

▶ FORMING YOUR GROUP

# SECTION 2:

## *Community Sponsors*

### *Community Sponsors*

A Community Sponsor is an organization, association or corporation that sponsors refugees under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program. Unlike Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs), community groups that would like to submit a sponsorship undertaking as a Community Sponsor are not required to be incorporated under federal or provincial law.

Community Sponsors must:

- ▶ have the financial capacity to fulfill the sponsorship;
- ▶ provide evidence of ability to provide necessary emotional/social supports to refugees and their families; and
- ▶ be based in the community where the refugee is expected to live.

Each time Community Sponsors wish to sponsor refugees, they need to undergo a financial and settlement plan assessment by the Centralized Processing Office in Winnipeg (CPO-W).

### *Forming your Group*

Consider who you need as part of your group. For example,

- ▶ How much **money** can your organization contribute? How much still needs to be contributed by others?
- ▶ Is there a family member here in Canada who will also contribute to the sponsorship?
- ▶ Do you know others in your community that have been involved in **previous sponsorships** or other refugee related work who may be able to help with the processing, provide donations, or assist in the settlement of the newcomers?

As you consider the requirements of the sponsorship you will begin to find others who will be able to join you in the partnership of sponsoring.

Although the sponsorship will be submitted in the name of a community group, it is important to note that it will be necessary to provide evidence that there is a group of **volunteers** to assist in the sponsorship. It is the community group who must provide evidence of financial abilities, but they also must show that there are people who will meet the refugee upon arrival and provide the necessary settlement support.

Community Sponsors may also choose to formally partner with an individual, such as a relative of sponsored refugees living in Canada, or another organization to raise the funds and carry out settlement duties. This type of formal partner is called a **Cosponsor**. A community sponsorship can involve multiple cosponsors as part of the sponsoring group but the primary sponsoring organization is referred to as the Community Sponsor.

Keep in mind that even when another organization or an individual is identified as a formal partner in the sponsorship the ultimate liability rests with the Community Sponsor that submits the sponsorship.

**It is necessary for the person with authority or ownership of the organization's finances (e.g.: Owner, President, Executive Director) to sign the Sponsorship Undertaking to indicate they approve the undertaking.**